

September 12, 1960

Honorable Francis E. Walter
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Francis:

I have given a great deal of thought to your letter of 2 September 1960.

One purpose of my telephone call to you on 2 September, was to thank you for inserting in the Congressional Record the full text of my address before the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Detroit on 22 August 1960.

Another purpose was to call attention to an AP report of a statement which you made to the press on 1 September, and which was widely circulated throughout the country, that "The FBI gave the CIA certain information which certainly should have deterred the hiring of at least one of those two men," referring to the two NSA defectors. The AP added "He declined to amplify."

I feel sure that this statement was made on the basis of a misunderstanding since it has no basis in fact. No such information was given to the CIA by the FBI, or by anyone else, and there was no particular reason why it should have been so given since the question of the screening of these two men for employment by NSA was not a matter over which the CIA had jurisdiction or responsibility.

Subsequently on September 7, 1960, the Department of Justice gave out the following statement:

"Reports that the FBI had furnished unfavorable information to the Department of Defense of Mitchell and Martin prior to its employment of them are erroneous. The pre-employment investigation of these men was conducted by the Department of Defense and not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In response to the normal inquiry made by the Department of Defense in the course of its investigation, the FBI reported that it had no information in its files concerning these men."

In my telephone call to you, I also expressed regret that your statement was tied in closely to another statement attributed to you by the Associated Press that "The CIA will be the first target of inquiry."

I sincerely hope that you will find occasion to correct the record as regards the prior furnishing of information to this Agency about the NSA defectors.

I should welcome an opportunity to discuss with you certain other comments in your letter, rather than attempt to deal with them by correspondence. You and I have had many good talks together, and since we have both spent many years of our lives in trying to expose and defeat the subversive communist menace, it is unfortunate there should be the misunderstanding which your letter indicates.

There is one further point, however, that I would wish to clarify. This relates to the statement in your letter regarding CIA "reluctance to convey to the Congress any information regarding its personnel, as well as its activities in the field of national security. . . ."

The Congress itself has set up, in the Senate and the House, subcommittees of the Appropriations Committees and of the Armed Services Committees, for CIA matters. We have appeared many times before these committees and certain other committees to which we have responsibilities, such as the Joint Atomic Energy Committee. In 1959

there were 28 such appearances and so far in 1960 16 appearances. We have uniformly responded to requests from these committees, and several times I have taken the initiative in asking the committees to hear me. I do not recall a single instance during appearances before these committees when we have failed to answer fully and frankly their questions with respect to CIA activities. I feel sure that if you would inquire of Representative Cannon or Representative Kilday, the respective chairmen of the two subcommittees I have mentioned, they would bear out what I have said.

Certainly I agree with you that there can be no monopoly whatsoever in the mobilization and deployment of the resources of the country in meeting the Communist menace. In my speech at Detroit, which I gather you viewed favorably, I tried to emphasize this viewpoint and the need for a far broader understanding by the country of the grave issues which face us.

Faithfully yours,

(S) ALLEN W. DULLES

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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